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opening on AM3092 to LB 812. Those wishing to speak are Senators Bohlke, Stuhr, and Redfield. Senator Bohlke, you're recognized to speak on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Let's do a quick review of where we are. We've said that we do not agree with the State Board of Education when they did not mandate the standards, and so we have mandated them. We've said that we do not agree with the State Board of Education that the standards were clear enough and so we told them to make those clearer. We now come to the portion where the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education have set about the plan that I explained earlier, there would be multiple testing to see if those standards are making a difference in the classroom. We still have the writing assessment that we would implement statewide that this actually would not impact. And where we are is that when we first...when I first got into the issue I agreed with Senator Beutler and introduced the bill for the one statewide test to be purchased from a testing company. The Education Committee heard from representatives of the testing company and I said from Buros, which is a company here in Lincoln that norms tests for schools across the country. The problem is since states have started going down that road on one test we have seen one state followed by another state having real serious problems with the one test. Senator Beutler said, and it's true, it's not necessarily bad to teach to the test if the test is all that you want your curriculum to be. However, one test does not accomplish that very often. And I promise you when you do one single test that that's what the teaching in the classroom will be about. The real problem when it comes to that, if you are a teacher in a classroom or in a school district and you know there's one test and then, when the results come out, the school districts are going to be ranked 1 through 584, there is probably going to be some pressure I would imagine that you would want your school district to be doing very well. And so you have the problem with the cheating. And we would like to think that that wouldn't happen, but it has happened in New York, it has happened in Massachusetts. In Wyoming, the testing company actually put out the one test. The results were out before someone discovered that the answers didn't match up correctly with the way and so they were graded wrong. Now, they're having to go back, redo the whole one test